

SATURDAY, JUNE 19, 1897.

ANTI-FOREIGN RIOTS IN THE YANGTSE VALLEY.

ENGLISH MISSION ATTACKED. NARROW ESCAPE OF FIVE LADY MISSIONARIES.

(Special Telegram from Our Own Correspondent.)

Shanghai, Saturday, June 19, 4.40 p.m.

There has been a renewal of the Anti-foreign riots in the Yangtse Valley. The English Plymouth Brethren Mission premises at Wuchen, near the Poyang Lake, has been destroyed; also the Rev. Mr. Blandford's house. Five English lady missionaries barely escaped with their lives.

The French mission at the same place was also attacked by the Chinese, but the Mandarin interfered and prevented the destruction of the property or the molestation of the missionaries.

The only reason assigned for the outrages is the old one of allegations against the missionaries of kidnapping Chinese children.

AT THE MAGISTRACY!
The defendant had chosen to contest the case, and he should have a fine of \$100.—
Report of Police Court Proceedings.
China Mail, 18th June.

Your case is not bad.
But, still, I've been troubled.
Now, don't look so sad;
Your case is not bad.
Still, I'm a lawyer you've had.
And the fine must be paid!
Your case is not bad.
But, still, I've been troubled.

REUTERS' TELEGRAMS.

[SUPPLIED TO THE 'CHINA MAIL']
LONDON, June 17th, 1897.
PUNITIVE EXPEDITION TO THE TOCHI VALLEY.
It has been decided to send a punitive expedition to the Tochi Valley.

EARTHQUAKE IN NORTHERN INDIA.

An earthquake has devastated Assam, ruining the tea gardens and crops, leveling the towns and destroying railways, roads and telegraphs. Serious mortality has taken place.

THE ANNEXATION OF THE HAWAIIAN ISLANDS.

The treaty has been submitted to the Senate.
The protest of Japan is confined to the reservation of rights under a treaty with the Hawaiian Islands.

THE EUROPEAN CONCERT.

Paris, June 12.
The Powers are working in the most perfect harmony to bring about peace on a simple basis.

THE SHAH OF PERSIA.

The Shah has left Tehran for France, where he is going for medical treatment.

30 NEW FIRES just arrived; best makers. Also Ombra and Transpacific. Prices guaranteed for the clients. W. Robinson & Co.

H.I.H. the Crown Prince of Japan will be 18 years of age on the 30th of August next. According to the Koshitsu Tempian (the Imperial Household Constitution), eighteenth is the age of maturity and great ceremonies are looked for, therefore, on the day mentioned.—Kobe Herald.

The price of rice in Japan has been rising steadily for some time, and in some localities rice dealers have been obliged to give up business for a time. The distress of the lower classes can be imagined, for rice is almost the only food on which they subsist. In Tokio, the latest retail price is one yen for 59 shu, which is believed to be the highest point reached since the 1st year of Meiji.—Kobe Herald.

FASHION has changed in London, and Japanese lacquered wares are no longer in such great demand. The Japanese Consul notifies this fact and advises attention to what is a permanent decorative character rather than goods that hold their value only for a season. He says further that an intelligent knowledge of Japanese art among those sent abroad to further the sales of Japanese goods would be of the highest worth in spreading the sales.—Hague News.

MARQUIS ITO, we are informed, had, on the eve of his departure for England, asked the Minister of the Household to obtain the Emperor's permission to be released from the rule of Prince Arisugawa as soon as the Japanese ceremonies shall have been finished, because he wished to extend his visits to France, Italy, Germany, and Russia. The Imperial permission was obtained, and the Household Minister sent a telegram to Marquis Ito to that effect, while the latter was in New York. Prince Arisugawa will return home direct from England.—Japan Times.

There is a constantly increasing demand for lead pencils in Japan, the supply being mostly imported from Europe or America. Those manufactured in Japan are inferior in quality and consequently they have little credit and the trade in Japanese pencils is by no means extensive. The lead-pencil manufacture in Japan is generally carried on by small private establishments, and companies devoted to the manufacture of the articles are small in number. The inferiority of the Japanese-manufactured pencils is chiefly due to the fact that the black lead is obtained chiefly from Hokuriku district and falls far behind the foreign product. As to the wood, Hokkaido and other places produce an excellent supply. Some of the companies in Osaka are said to have succeeded in manufacturing good pencils with a considerable quantity of their manufacture has already been exported to Hongkong, Bombay, and other parts of the East. If these manufactures earn a profit for good quality, the demand, home as well as foreign, will gradually increase.—Japan Times.

'FRAGRANT WATERS' MURMUR.

That we are now on the eve of the Jubilee celebrations, and in three days' time the blaze of light and of loyalty, and the storm of rejoicings will be ended.

That the event may well be described as unparalleled, for this world-wide Confederation known as the British Empire has never been so thoroughly of one mind as at the present.

That, instead of the bonfires encircling a coast line, as of old, they will on this occasion girdle the world.

That the Hongkong contribution to general result is creditable to the Colony, as the sum will total up to nearly two lakhs of dollars.

That it is needless now to re-open the discussion as to the new road—or even the advisability of a Hospital.

That as they have been already decided upon, why attempt to raise the question again at the eleventh hour?

That the arrangements for the rejoicings seem to be very complete, and of such a nature as should secure a very markedly successful demonstration.

That the restrictions of traffic near the City Hall are very needful and timely, and I would also add the service of the ferry launches to Bowrington should tend to relieve the congestion of traffic on the roads.

That I should very much like to have a peep at the despatch which conveys to H. E. the Governor the list of honours to be conferred upon local magnates of light and leading in connection with the auspicious occasion.

That it would be easy enough, I fancy, to point to two or three names which are almost certain to appear in the list.

That the Governor, most probably, will receive the G.C.M.G., but it is not easy to prophesy the precise honours to be given to the Colonial Secretary, the Unofficial Members of the Executive Council, or the Hon. Treasurer of the Jubilee Fund.

That Knighthoods are not often given in a small Colony; but we shall see.

That I trust there will be no accident to mar the joy of the festivities.

That Dr. Francis Clark, an officer who does good work at the Colony, and he has undoubtedly done so in the matter of this so-called revival of the Lai-chik-chik Hospital of three years ago.

That if this new hospital is a Chinese is anything like the one at Lai-chik-chik during the Plague of 1894, the thing will certainly be a danger, as well as a disgrace to Hongkong.

That the Commission to inquire into the charges to be made upon shipping entering this Harbour does not get on quite smoothly.

That, as we to be reasonably expected, the problems laid down on official lines will necessitate endless work with no good result.

That consequently the constitution of the Commission is threatened until a more sensible programme is drawn up.

That I fully agree with your editorial remarks, to effect that no good can be done until that long-winded document is withdrawn and replaced by one more simple and less one-sided.

That the firm of Messrs John D. Humphreys and Son has been on everyone's lips during the last few weeks.

That the sale of the Mount Austin Hotel to the military seems still to engage the attention of the public, and the petition against the purchase is being freely signed.

That the same firm has presented a handsome sum to the School Fund at Kowloon, which solves the problem of education for European children on the peninsula.

That now the financiers referred to have purchased the building now occupied by the members of the Hongkong Club.

That this building is perhaps the oldest in the Colony, having been erected some time in 1845, the same year in which the China Mail was started by Mr. Andrew Spence.

That it is generally believed Messrs Humphreys intend to start a rival Club-house for the recommendation of residents who are not members of the Hongkong Club.

That it may be a question whether there is room for one more institution for the clubbable portion of the community without merging some of the minor clubs.

That I hear the new Hongkong Club building (which is to be used temporarily on the evening of the 22nd) will soon be too small for its increasing membership.

That the small Union Club was a very pleasant little institution in the good old days, but it had rooms in the Hotel, and no house of its own.

BROWNIE.

It is said that on a wet day recently, the Duke of Cambridge hailed a cab in Bond Street and bade the driver drive to Victoria Station. On arrival, the Duke handed the driver a shilling. Then, of course, came the inevitable: "Er, wot's this? One'll you make it another tanner?" "Certainly not," said the noble fare, and what is more, you came the wrong way. What made you go right round Hyde Park Corner and Victoria Station?" "Oo! St. James's Park is closed," replied only. "Closed? Why now's that?" "Oh, they say 'ow the Duke o' Cambridge dropped a threepenny bit a-comin' across last night, and the Park's closed till they find it."

A CAPITAL invention, these horrible cartridges! Don't talk rubbish. We have done for a long time things quite as remarkable in their way as these cartridges, and nobody takes the slightest notice of them. Indeed, what for instance? Convinced you'll.

TERRIBLE FATALITY AT CANTON.

FOUR FLOWER BOATS CAPSIZED. ONE HUNDRED LIVES LOST.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Canton, June 18.

Last night an accident happened to some of the Jolly 'flower boats' anchored off Kulk Faa, involving a serious loss of life. About midnight, a cable snapped, and four of these boats were overturned in the river. It is said that at least a hundred persons were drowned. The accident is attributed to the force of the river current, and to the top-heavy nature of the boats.

RECORD REIGN CELEBRATIONS.

THE MUSICAL FESTIVAL.
Mr. W. Danby, who has charge of the Musical Festival at the Happy Valley, has made arrangements for the division of the parts composing the chorus, which it is as well should be known to the ladies and gentlemen taking part in the musical festival. The vocalists will be accommodated in the Jockey Club Grand Stand, a portion being reserved in the centre for the combined bands of the West Yorkshire Regiment, the Hongkong Regiment and H.M.S. Undersent. The seats will be numbered and marked off in different colours as follows:—Soprano (white), contralto (blue), tenors (yellow), basses (red). As soon as the rehearsal is finished, the bandmen and Voluntarys taking part in the chorus will be served with refreshments under the Grand Stand, and will then take their places with the other members of the chorus. This refreshment bar will be under the charge of Mr. M. S. Northcott. The other members of the Voluntary Corps will be supplied with refreshments at the bar of the Victoria Hotel stand, at the conclusion of the singing. Ladies and gentlemen in the chorus will be served with refreshments in their respective places during the progress of the review. This work will be under the supervision of Mr. R. T. Wright, Mr. E. Guetz and Mr. Loureiro. The large stewards' room, over the Pari-Mutuel room, is reserved for the children, nurses and amahs of those ladies who are taking part in the chorus. Dr. Clark will be in command, and will see that refreshments are provided for all. The military and naval staff will take up a position for the march past between the Governor's stand and the water course in front of the Grand Stand, the Governor and staff and members of the Committee being accommodated in a special Stand (in front of the Jockey Club Grand Stand). Another extra stand has been erected in the enclosure, between the Golf Club House and the Jockey Club enclosure, for subscribers, in addition to two large stands already erected on each side of the Jockey Club Grand Stand. Admission to these stands will be by subscribers' tickets only.

Mr. Herbert Smith, a member of the Jubilee Committee, whose assistance the Honorary Secretary has requisitioned in the matter, asks us to state that the following gentlemen have kindly consented to act as stewards of the enclosure on the afternoons of Tuesday and Wednesday next, for the purpose of directing ladies to their seats, and rendering assistance in the arrangements generally:—

Mr. John Barton
Mr. Caesar Hawkins
Mr. H. E. Pollock
Mr. H. W. Robertson
Mr. C. S. Sharp
Mr. Herbert Smith
Mr. Gordon Stewart
Hon. T. H. Whitehead
Mr. R. T. Wright

It is requested that these gentlemen will be at the Happy Valley not later than 4 p.m. each day.

THE CATHEDRAL PROCESSION.

We are asked to draw attention to an alteration in the order of procession at the Cathedral to-morrow. Colonel Edeleke, R.E., follows Mr. Raymond and Lieut. Col. Faithfull follows Mr. Moses, while Colonel Goggin, follows Mr. H. Smith, and Surg. Col. Evans follows Mr. Lawford.

PREPARING FOR EMERGENCIES.
We are requested to state that the signal arranged for the postponement of the general illuminations and of the steam launch procession is two guns to be fired in succession from the Peak.

A negative flag—five black crosses on a white ground—will also be shown from a conspicuous place on H.M.S. Tamar.

The postponement will remain in force until two guns fired successively from the Peak proclaim the resumption of the illuminations on the day on which the guns are fired.

We are also requested to state that for the convenience of passengers landing from their launches after the close of the procession the Naval and Military authorities have kindly authorized the use of the wharves under their control.

CHANCE OF PROGRESS.

On Tuesday next, the address to the Queen from the Colony will be presented by the Chairman of the Committee (Hon. O. P. Chater) at 11.30 a.m. at Government House; the Chinese tablet by the Hon. Ho Kai at 11.45 a.m., and the Masonic Address by the Hon. O. P. Chater; District Grand Master, at noon.

The time for the Review has been changed. H. E. the Governor will arrive at the Happy Valley at 6.30 p.m. previously announced. The Review will commence immediately after the arrival of the Governor.

W. Robinson & Co., Piano and Musical Instrument specialists and experts. Workshops and Factory, Duddell St.; Show Rooms, Queen's Road Central.

THE OPENING OF WUCROW.

(From Our Own Correspondent.)
Wuchow, June 14.

Again I am late with my report, but if you were here on the field and had the pleasure (?) of 'bussing' about twenty workmen you would realize the difficulty of writing.

I am sorry that the report of the opening could not have reached you sooner, but you know the old proverb: 'Better late than never.'

On the morning of the 4th of June, the officers of every rank were astir and all of them pressing their way to the anchorage of the hulks and house-boats that are to surmount the purpose of Customs house, both indoor and outdoor, for the time being, though I trust not for long, for while answering the purpose of the hour they will not be either convenient or capable of handling the business that will shortly, we trust, be developed.

When the highest officers had arrived on the scene, I am informed that they were invited to partake of a full foreign-style meal, that the three highest officers of the city, including the new Tao-tai, who arrived here in Ng Chau just in time to take up his new duties of Chinese Commissioner of Customs, and the Foreign Commissioner. Besides this there seemed to be no opening ceremony. After partaking of the meal, they were all photographed standing on the bows of the Customs' boats.

THE PORTAL SERVICE.

The new Postal Clerk here has things now pretty well arranged, but not yet perfect, for we still have to pay the additional postage of 2 cents per oz., besides the regular Postal Union rate to outside countries. It is, however, a great convenience not to have to depend on the Chinese passage boats to get our mail to the coast as was the custom in the past.

THE STEAMSHIP PASSAGE RATES.
The Steamship companies have very thoroughly cut off their own heads in the matter of passage rates, for the rates they charge are exorbitant. I refer to the rates for foreigners, for the Chinese rates are very satisfactory. I fear that there will be very few that will travel with the H. K. C. & M. S. Co. till better offers are made in regard to rates, for at the present price a party of five or more could engage the very best native house boat in Ng Chau, with a large enough crew to get one down to Canton in three days, and unless the matter was one of life or death this rate of speed would satisfy most. There is, however, one company, while not offering all of the accommodations of the first named, which gives very satisfactory prices and their launches run at a very satisfactory speed, especially taking into consideration that they are towing an old passage boat or rather a new passage boat made in the old style for the accommodation of the Chinese. This company is under the agency of foreigners, but I understand its shares are held to the greatest extent, if not entirely, by the Chinese.

THE ATTITUDE OF THE CHINESE.

Everything is very quiet here and as far as anyone can see is the same as it was before the opening.

The feeling here is very peaceful and quiet, and there is very little of the dirty language that one hears addressed to the foreigners on the streets of Canton or even of Hongkong.

The officials here are trying to do the best they can for their own fellow countrymen, for not many days since there was a long address from one of the prominent officials giving instruction to the people as how best to plant and till the ground, as to the best kind of seed to use and when best to harvest, and much more that could not but help to benefit the populace.

TROUBLE BREWING.

Wuchow, June 15.
I have it from official sources that trouble is brewing among the merchants owing to the collection of likin tax on goods, both foreign and native, shipped in foreign bottoms, which have already paid regular Customs dues into the I. M. C.

The matter has become so serious that it has been laid before the Consul and H. E. the Viceroy.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The Rev. R. E. and Mrs. Chambers left for Canton and Macao this morning.

Work is progressing on the new Jardine hall.

There is now regular steam connection everyday between here and Canton, and quite a number of launches are always in service.

PATENT MUSIC BOXES, Violins (fine models), Mandolines, and Strings of all kinds. W. Robinson & Co.

It will not be long if all goes well ere the cable to Formosa will be duplicated, it being well understood that the line just completed must prove inadequate for the Government and private messages.—Hague News.

As has been already reported, the military authorities in Formosa, despatching the railway from north to south, have had five surveying parties at work looking for a suitable route to lay a line from east to west. Four of these parties have returned with very unfavorable reports, and according to Colonel Yamane, chief of the military railway construction department in Formosa. The high mountain range traversing the length of the island appears to be practically without a satisfactory break such as would admit a railway to connect the east and west coasts.

The fifth party, surveying the region between Fuchien and the east coast, has not yet returned, and the only hope is that the report on that route may be more favourable.—Japan Times.

THE SHANGHAI VOLUNTEER CORPS.

Shanghai, June 12.

In our issue of the 8th instant, we dwelt upon the advisability of a drill not present in vogue in the Volunteer Corps, in order that the Subalterns and Sergeants should have opportunities of practice in the art of handling men under arms. It presents, as we stated, the system of drill is such that nobody gets any chance of practical work except the Captain.

This would not matter were the Captain always at hand, but when matters come to the test of actual service, the unfortunate Subaltern may find himself in absolute command, but minus that important quality—self-possession, which is born only of experience. We know well enough that even the Chinese soldier under a German can be a regular soldier in a regular form—except perhaps the German Company; therefore the greater need for every possible effort to make the body of officers as a whole, not one or two picked men, as efficient as possible. This can be done, as has been hinted, by re-organizing the system of drill, giving what serves our purpose from the British Red Book, or any other, and adding thereto special movements, particularly required in street work. There are surely officers in the Corps capable of doing such elementary duty as this.

But, the ultra-officially inclined may ask: "Won't this cut us adrift from Hongkong?" We think not, but even so, it wouldn't much matter. We think not, however, and moreover, we hope not, for the year's visit of a regular soldier in a regular form, but, under the changed circumstances which we contemplate, he would inspect the whole corps somewhat as he now inspects the Germans. We should invite him to see our drill, to point out faults of principle, but not of detail, and we should have our own manual exercise, our own company movements, a few field movements, so that they could stand shoulder to shoulder with other troops if necessary; but above all, our own street drill, which should include the use of the Artillery, the Machine Gun, and the Infantry. We should point out to him that the half-dressed Subalterns and Sergeants of each of our Infantry companies were every one of them capable of commanding a company in a street row, and with which we should have a regular well content: for it is a more practicable programme than has ever been put before a Hongkong volunteer yet.

We should gain in another way. Reference to the recommendations of the various officers who have honored the corps by their criticisms during the past year will show that many of them are mutually destructive. History will also show that the Shanghai authorities have more than once tried to carry out these opposing suggestions, with much the same result as occurred to the old man, who, in trying to please everybody, pleased nobody, and lost his ass in the bargain. There would be nothing of this in the altered circumstances which we venture to recommend. The inspiring officer would criticize the minutiae, and adaptability to circumstances, his presence would be the stimulus it is now, but it would spur us on to useful work instead of making us, as at present, to continue in an unimpaired and, as we believe, suicidal course.

Further in the matter of inspection, and invite any foreign officer of high rank, who might happen to visit the port to do us the honour to inspect the corps. The criticisms of an American, French, or German officer, however, they may be spoken in English, would be welcome and as useful as those of a Hongkong Major, or Colonel, be he never so British.

This brings us to another point—the question of uniform. At present the corps looks as if it had stepped out of one of the streets of Portsmouth. The British serjeant perhaps looks well—that is a question of taste. But, as a matter of fact, there are Englishmen who do not like it, and men of other nationalities have similar feelings. There are more positive reasons, however, for the more of the authorities are, or over were, in their choice of this hue. One thing is quite certain—and that is the dressing of the corps costs at least as much, as it should do. Little by little changes and additions have been made altogether beyond what it need be. We are not recommending the cutting down of estimates for things essential; we would prefer to add to them, but we are sure we would rub away at the surplus, and we would see that the authorities are, or over were, in their choice of this hue. 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